

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended. See the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0008] and [0039].

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed on, and to return initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement concurrently filed herewith.

The Office Action objects to claim 1. Claim 1 is amended for better clarity. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Application No. 2003/0038904 to Kaneko et al. ("Kaneko"); and rejects claims 2-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kaneko in view of U.S. Patent 6,281,952 to Okamoto et al. ("Okamoto"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kaneko appears to disclose a transfective film 11 which may be made of a light reflective material, but with openings for passing light. See Fig. 2 and paragraphs 0077 and 0097. The Office Action asserts that film 11 extends below switching elements 33 in Fig. 2 of Kaneko. However, since this type of transfective film 11 is not shown in the drawings, Kaneko does not explicitly disclose how the transfective film 11 would be formed relative to the TFD 33.

In any event, as described in paragraph [0077] of Kaneko, the transfective film 11 shown in the drawings is formed so thin, with a reduced thickness, that light can pass through. This type of semi-transparent film covers the entire display area, so that there are no separate reflective and transmissive display areas, and separate reflective/transmissive displays are not

possible. Kaneko does not disclose or suggest a reflective display area and a transmissive display area of each dot being separate and independent from each other, as recited in claim 1.

Also, in Kaneko, because light passes through all areas of the transflective film 11, any alignment disorder would be visible in the form of overly dark display in the vicinity of the TFD element 33. Kaneko does not appear to recognize the problem of alignment disorder caused by the electric field in the vicinity of switching elements. Therefore, Kaneko does not disclose or suggest a reflective layer having a portion extending directly below the switching element, the portion shielding from being viewed during transmissive display the alignment disorder of the liquid crystal layer, as recited in claim 1.

Okamoto does not supply the subject matter lacking in Kaneko. Therefore, Kaneko and Okamoto, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 2-7 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Information Disclosure Statement

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